

NOTICES.

Can anyone give the Editor information as to the whereabouts of Miss G. Edwards (1896)? She has left Market Harborough.

Many people will be glad to hear that Miss C. Monro is safe, and even possibly home again in England by now, as she was expected to arrive by the middle of January. She was released at Tabora on September 19th, and then went up Lake Victoria Nyanza on "safari," which took sixteen days. From there she got to the B.E.A. railway for Mombasa, and then to Zanzibar.

Will students who do not receive their magazines kindly write to Miss Young, 102, Cranbrook Road, Ilford, Essex, and not either to Miss Gray or Miss Wix, who have nothing to do with the distribution of L'UMILE PIANTA.

The following students have resigned their membership of the Ambleside Old Students' Association: G. H. Aspinall, J. M. Baird, C. F. Barnett, D. J. Bradford, Mrs. Lang, G. A. Gibbs, W. I. Maude, D. Viney, and the following, not having paid their subscription for three years, are considered to have resigned: V. K. Bishop, P. C. Kinnear, V. W. Carson, and M. L. James. Miss S. M. Bartlett has joined the Association.

Students' Meetings will be held at 27, Craven Road, W., by the kindness of Miss Evans and Miss Faunce, on February 3rd and March 3rd, at 3.30. Students who intend going to a meeting are requested to send Miss Evans a postcard the day before.

The next number of L'UMILE PIANTA will appear on March 15th. All communications must reach the Editor (Fredville, near Dover) by February 20th.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE.

The following students have not paid their subscriptions for 1915, nor for 1916:

E. M. Brookes.	M. R. Clark.	Mrs. Bolland.
M. Baines.	Mrs. Smith (née Flower).	

The following students have not paid their subscriptions for 1916:

J. J. Aitken.	M. Gladding.	D. Rhode.
Mrs. Cavenagh.	H. M. Garnett.	V. R. Saunders.
D. S. Courtney.	E. Bruce-Lowe.	M. Sharman.
E. L. Crowe.	Mrs. Walton.	P. D. Wilkinson.
D. Crowe.	L. H. Morris.	M. Whitfield.
L. G. Edwards.	O. McConnell.	
L. M. Gore.	Mrs. Irwin.	

Subscriptions for 1917 were due on January 1st.

STUDENTS' MEETING.

HELD AT 27, CRAVEN ROAD.

DECEMBER 2ND, 1916.

It was delightful to see so many students gathered together once more, for we numbered 13½—more than for several months. The "half" may puzzle some people, so I will explain. Mrs. Giles brought her little girl, and the small mite seemed to feel quite at home, for she had brought a white bunny for company, and she certainly added much to the interest of the meeting. Perhaps when the days get longer other student-mothers will follow her lead, and we

might have a special meeting for these little new-comers. After tea had been enjoyed, Miss Mason's letter was read and a résumé of the committee meeting that had just taken place was given, and then it was time for the meeting to begin to break up. It was nice to have Miss Franklin present with us once more. She has now taken her degrees of M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P., and starts work on Monday (December 4th) as one of the resident doctors at the Royal Infirmary, Bristol. Miss Haggie starts on Monday, also—her work being mission work in Islington. We wish them both success.

May I ask students to resume a custom they once had of sending a postcard to Miss Evans or Miss Faunce when they hope to be present at the Students' Meeting. Otherwise they have no idea of how much tea to provide, and it is a very small way of showing how much we appreciate being able to hold our meetings month by month in their delightful classroom, to say nothing of its being a matter of mere common courtesy.

The following students were present at the meeting: Mrs. Giles and baby, Misses Bennett, Bernau, Claxton, Faunce, Franklin, Glascott, Gray, Haggie, Macfarlane, Norris, Thomasset, and Young.

LILIAN GRAY.

REPORT OF THE S.E.C. MEETING.

HELD AT 27, CRAVEN ROAD.

DECEMBER 2ND, 1916, AT 2.30.

The chair was taken by Miss Bernau, and there were four members present: Misses Bernau, Young, Claxton, and Gray.

The principal business of the meeting was in connection with the forthcoming Conference. The result of the voting papers was as follows: For a Conference at Ambleside, 47; for a Conference in London, 39; against a Conference 41. It was therefore decided that there should be a Conference held at Ambleside at the end of the Easter holidays, and that it should last from Friday to Tuesday. The exact date will be published in the March magazine if possible. It was thought that the Conference should be planned as simply as possible, so that all unnecessary expense should be avoided, but the Committee felt that an "At Home" to Present Students should be part of the programme, and were sure that students would be of the same opinion. A letter was read from Miss Mason (printed in this number of the magazine), saying how pleased she was to hear about the Conference, particularly with the view of discussing the prospects of P.U.S. programmes being introduced into elementary schools. That and "the children and the war" were felt to be the subjects most needing discussion at the present time. Miss Mason has made several suggestions for our entertainment, but there are two mornings and one afternoon still to be filled in on the programme, and the Committee will gladly welcome suggestions from students as soon as possible after receiving the magazine, so that they may be laid before the Committee when it meets again on February 7th. Please send all suggestions to Miss Gray, 3, St. David's Avenue, Bexhill, Sussex.

It was also decided to hold an "Aftermath" of the Conference in London (date to be decided later), so that students who are unable to get up to Ambleside may hear direct from those who are able to be there exactly what takes place, and that they may have the opportunity of discussing questions for themselves. We hope that the prospect of this second

Conference will compensate in some measure those who cannot go to Ambleside.

Miss Parish and Miss Harriet Smeeton have agreed to act as joint editors of the *Children's Quarterly*. We feel that the magazine will be in very capable hands, and we wish them every success in their work.

LILIAN GRAY.

LETTERS.

House of Education,
Ambleside,
November 28th, 1916.

MY DEAR "BAIRNS,"

Miss Gray's letter, telling me of the proposal to hold a Students' Conference held in the spring of 1917, interests me greatly.

In the first place, it is a long time since I have had the pleasure of seeing you. In the next, we are at a moment in the history of the P.N.E.U., when the energies of all its members are urgently needed, and the help of my dear "Bairns" will be expected on all sides. Two or three students have already written to the Office, asking how they can help; three more students are already in communication about elementary schools in their own neighbourhoods.

I want us all to be prepared with the same plan of campaign, so that we may all work together as one in this great forward movement, which means—have you realized it?—the education of the country, and perhaps of the Empire, for we have already had an inquiry for a large school in India.

I wish you could all go and see the Drighlington School

and what it has done in $2\frac{1}{2}$ years; but as that is not possible, I can only say that I am told it is like a fairy-tale, and that (in confidence) our P.N.E.U. Schools have a "blue tea-pot" to live up to!

I know you have all read, but have you all *studied* the three pamphlets? In No. 1 you will find a summary of teaching you know well, a summary that may help you to tabulate the points that must be dwelt on in talking of the matter to teachers. I enumerate them again in a still more concise form:

All children are persons of mind, and can deal with knowledge.

Therefore, children's minds must be allowed to work.

Therefore, self-education is the only form of education that can have any lasting value.

Children have an unlimited power of attention when they are not distracted by questions, the personality of the teacher or anything that comes between them and knowledge.

The teacher's concern is with the behaviour of mind. "The mind can know nothing except what it can put in the form of an answer to a question put by the mind to itself," and it works by, "What next? What next?" Narration is not *memory* work, but *mind* work, and cannot be accomplished without concentrated attention and consequent assimilation.

The addition which the Drighlington School has made to what the working of the method has established in other schools is that ALL children have these powers, not only children who come from cultivated homes. Also, the Drighlington children have excelled in the power of narration, narrating easily after the single reading of two or three pages.

I think your own teaching must be examined in the light of these facts, because your schoolrooms and classes will be